

Message Text

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21

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TAGS: ELAB PINS KS

SUBJECT: KOREAN LABOR DAY CELEBRATION

1. THE FEDERATION OF KOREAN TRADE UNIONS (FKTU) ANNUAL RALLY WAS ATTENDED BY 10,000 WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES CELEBRATING MARCH 10, KOREAN LABOR DAY AND 29TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS FOUNDING. KEY NOTE SPEAKERS WERE FKTU CHAIRMAN PAE SANG-HO AND PROMINENT MINISTERS WITH MEMBERS OF CABINET, NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND REPRESENTATIVES OF EMPLOYERS AND DOMESTIC JAPANESE ALSO PRESENT.

2. RALLY WAS PEACEFUL AND ORDERLY. FKTU PROCLAIMED STANDARD SET OF RESOLUTIONS ASKING FOR RESTORATION OF RIGHT TO STRIKE AND PROTEST, MORE EQUITABLE WAGE INCREASES, A MINIMUM WAGE SYSTEM, LABOR PARTICIPATION IN MANAGEMENT, MORE EFFECTIVE MANPOWER POLICIES, ESTABLISHMENT OF LABOR MINISTRY, GREATER ASSURANCE OF WORKERS' WELFARE THROUGH MORE EFFECTIVE LABOR LAW ENFORCEMENT. PRESIDENT PAE CALLED FOR RESTORATION OF WORKERS' RIGHTS, CURBS ON EXCESS PROFITS AND RESTRAINTS ON DISMISSALS DUE TO ECONOMIC RECESSION. HE ALSO ASKED ROKG TO ADOPT AUTOMATIC WAGE-PRICE ADJUSTMENT SYSTEM, AND CRITICIZED INCREASING VIOLATIONS OF TRADE UNION RIGHTS. PRIME MINISTER STRESSED ROKG'S EFFORTS TO

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MINIMIZE UNEMPLOYMENT THROUGH PUBLIC WORKS,

CONSTRUCTION, AND READINESS TO HELP EMPLOYERS TO MAINTAIN LEVELS OF EMPLOYMENT, ENDING WITH APPEAL FOR TRADITIONAL IMPORTANCE OF SOCIAL HARMONY AND LABOR MANAGEMENT COOPERATION.

3. IN RECOGNITION OF FKTU DEMONSTRATION OF DISCIPLINE AND LOYALTY, PRESIDENT PARK INVITED 19 TOP FKTU LEADERS TO MEET WITH HIM MARCH 12, AND PRIME MINISTER OFFERED ANNUAL DINNER WITH TRADE UNION LEADERS ON MARCH 14.

FKTU USED OCCASIONS TO PRESENT THEIR DEMANDS TO PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER. PRESIDENT TOLD VISITORS NOT TO ASK FOR HIGHER WAGE INCREASES, REITERATED ROKG PRIORITY ON EMPLOYMENT, AND DECLINED TO REPEAL ANTI-STRIKE DECREE.

4. LABOR DAY WAS GENERALLY QUIET. HOWEVER, ONE THOUSAND TEXTILE WORKERS PEACEFULLY ASSEMBLED IN FRONT OF ANYANG PRISON WHERE ONE OF THEIR LEADERS, A MEMBER OF YOUNG CHRISTIAN WORKERS, IS BEING HELD. GROUP OF 156 LABOR LEADERS AND UNION STAFF MEMBERS USED FORUM OF TONGA ILBO TO DENOUNCE FKTU AND, DEMAND RESIGNATION OF CHAIRMANPPAE BECAUSE OF CORRUPTION, UNDEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP, AND GREATER RESPONSIVENESS TO ROKG AND EMPLOYERS THAN TO WORKERS. NAMES OF GROUP MEMBERS HAVE SO FAR NOT BEEN PUBLICIZED, BUT ACCORDING TO FORMER FKTU ASSISTANT SEC. GENL. CHO SEN-WON, THEY INCLUDE HIMSELF, EX-PRESIDENT KIM MAL-YONG, AND LEADERS OF AUTOWORKERS, UNITED WORKERS, AND CHEMICAL WORKERS WITH COMBINED MEMBERSHIP OF NEARLY 40 PERCENT OF FKTU MEMBERSHIP. GROUP OFFERED ITSELF AS ALTERNATE LOYAL, MODERATE, AND ANTI-COMMUNIST LEADERSHIP.

5. BOTH CATHOLIC AND PROTESTANT SOCIAL ACTION GROUPS CONDUCTED SPECIAL LABOR DAY SERVICES, AMONG THEM A CATHOLIC LABOR DAY MASS AT MYONGDONG CATHEDRAL, WHICH PROCLAIMED "GOSPEL OF DEMOCRACY AND SURVIVAL OF THE MASSES" PLUS USUAL APPEALS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE. MASS WAS ATTENDED BY ABOUT 1,500 YOUNG WORKERS MOBILIZED ON THAT OCCASION BY YOUNG LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CATHOLIC WORKERS AND CATHOLIC PRIESTS FOR RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY.
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